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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 13, 2006, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1, 2, 4-20, 22-39, and 43-46 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 14, 19, 32, 37 and 38 are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims. In this Amendment, claims 43 and 44 have been amended and claim 41 has been cancelled and claims 45 and 46 have been added. A version of the claims containing markings to show the changes made is included hereinabove. Applicants believe that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is respectfully requested.

Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 41, 43 and 44. Claim 41 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 43 and 44 have been amended to correct a typographical error in each claim as suggested by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 19, 20, 22-31, 37-39, 43 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,167,448 to Hemphill et al. (hereinafter Hemphill) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,594,786 to Connelly et al. (hereinafter Connelly). Hemphill discloses a management event notification system using event notification messages written using a markup language. Connelly discloses a fault tolerant high availability meter. Applicants respectfully disagree with these contentions and assert that the present claimed invention is not anticipated by any disclosure in the Hemphill and/or Connelly references.

In a prior office action, the Examiner stated that Hemphill is silent regarding an event message containing product versions currently supported and a definition of a set of classes for the product among other elements of claim 1. In the present office action, the Examiner states that Hemphill discloses regarding an event message containing product versions currently supported and a definition of a set of classes for the product. Applicants agree with the Examiner's statement in the earlier office action.

Hemphill fails to disclose or suggest a set of classes for said product, a description of the class, and definitions of dynamic variables for each class, said dynamic variables including properties and alarm attributes. The Examiner stated that Hemphill shows the same at column 10, lines 23-67 and column 11, lines 1-67. Hemphill fails to disclose a definition of a set of classes for said product. If the product in Hemphill is XML (as indicated by the Examiner) then the set of classes must relate to the product (XML) not to a device (DEVICENAME and DEVCIEID). XML cannot be considered a device. The same reasoning should also be applied to the description of the class and dynamic variables including properties and alarms. Therefore, since Hemphill discloses properties of a device and not classes for a product, claim 1 is believed allowable over Hemphill. Connelly also fails to disclose or suggest classes for a product, thus claim 1 is also believed allowable over Connelly, taken alone or in combination with Hemphill.

Claims 14, 19, 32, 37 and 38 contain similar language as claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 2, 4-13, 20, 22-31, 39, 43 and 44 depend from claims 1, 14, 19 or 32 and are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim that is believed allowable. Further, claims 43 and 44 recite maintaining a time history of a series of events related to an alarm attribute. The Examiner stated that the same is disclosed by Hemphill at column 10, lines 27-52. Hemphill merely discloses a time stamp for a single event. A timestamp does not equate to maintaining a time history of a series of events related to an alarm attribute. If the Examiner is to maintain this rejection he is asked to specifically point out where in Hemphill a time history of a **series of events** is maintained. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-13, 19, 20, 22-31, 37-39, 43 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Hemphill in view of Connelly is believed to have been overcome.

Claims 14-16, 32-34 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,779,004 to Zintel in view of Hemphill. Zintel discloses auto-configuring of peripheral on host/peripheral computing platform with peer networking-to-host/peripheral adapter for peer networking connectivity. Hemphill has been discussed above. Claims 14 and 32 contains similar language as claim 1 and, for

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the same reasons as claim 1, is believed allowable over Hemphill. Zintel also fails to disclose or suggest classes for a product, thus claims 14 and 32 are also believed allowable over Zintel, taken alone or in combination with Hemphill. Claims 15-16, 33-34 depend from claims 14 or 32 and are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim which is believed allowable. Claim 41 has been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 14-16, 32-34 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Zintel in view of Hemphill is believed to have been overcome.

Claims 17 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel in view of Hemphill and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,526,442 to Stupek Jr. et al. (hereinafter Stupek). Claims 18 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zintel in view of Connelly and further in view of Hemphill and Connelly. Claims 17, 18, 35 and 36 depend from claims 14 or 32 and are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim that is believed allowable. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 17 and 35 and 18 and 36 is believed to have been overcome.

Claims 45 and 46 have been added. Support for claims 45 and 46 can be found in the specification at page 61 lines 13 - 14. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the addition of claims 45 and 46 and that the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter of claims 45 and 46.

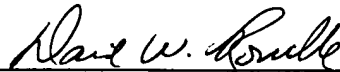
In view of the above, the Examiner's objections and rejections are believed to have been overcome, placing the pending claims in condition for allowance and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

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If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-9660, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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